

DASG-HS-AS

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION:

SUBJECT: Medical Waivers for Individuals With a History of Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) or Laser in-Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) Refractive Surgery

1. Reference DASG-HS-AS Memorandum 10 September 1999, subject as above.
2. The 10 September 1999 memorandum is superseded by the following updated guidance.
3. The following waiver recommendation policy is provided for your use in making waiver determinations. It does not supersede current medical standards contained in AR 40-501 but rather provides guidance to waiver authorities who may want to consider waivers for PRK or LASIK. The waiver review process shall be used to evaluate individuals on a case by case basis and applies to both active and reserve components.
4. This policy applies to medical waivers for individuals otherwise disqualified under AR 40-501 medical standards because of a history of PRK or LASIK surgery (e.g. Chapter 2 for accession waivers, Chapter 5 for special program waivers). Medical waivers are not recommended for a history of radial keratotomy (RK), astigmatic keratotomy (AK), or any other form of refractive surgery.
5. Individuals submitted for a medical waiver for PRK or LASIK shall be uniformly evaluated using the following criteria:
 - a. General. Individuals shall provide:
 - (1) Documentation of the pre and post-operative refractive error.
 - (2) Documentation of the best spectacle corrected visual acuity. Waiver authorities should determine if the visual acuity meets AR 40-501 standards for the specific purpose or program being considered for a waiver (e.g. Chapter 2 for accession waivers, Chapter 5 for special program waivers).
 - (3) Documentation that at least six months have elapsed since the date of the last laser surgery or enhancement procedure and;

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(4) Documentation that there have been no significant visual side effects secondary to the surgery affecting daily activities.

b. Examination. Applicants must have a current comprehensive eye examination, to include a dilated fundus examination, performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. Laser Refractive Surgery Waiver Form should be completed (Encl 1) for all individuals seeking a waiver. This may be overprinted on a DA Form 4700.

c. Medical History. Applicants must provide copies of all medical records including the pre-operative eye examination (noting refractive error and keratometry readings); all operative reports or procedure notes; and all follow-up notes.

6. Data on all accession waivers shall be forwarded to Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) for inclusion in the Department of Defense Accessions Medical Standards Analysis and Research Activity. This data will be tracked by the DOD Medical Accessions Standards Working Group and periodically reviewed by the DOD Medical Accessions Standards Steering Committee.

7. POC is Ms. Wortzel, DSN 761-0020, e-mail, tina.wortzel@otsg.amedd.army.mil.

Encl

RONALD R. BLANCK
Lieutenant General
The Surgeon General

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